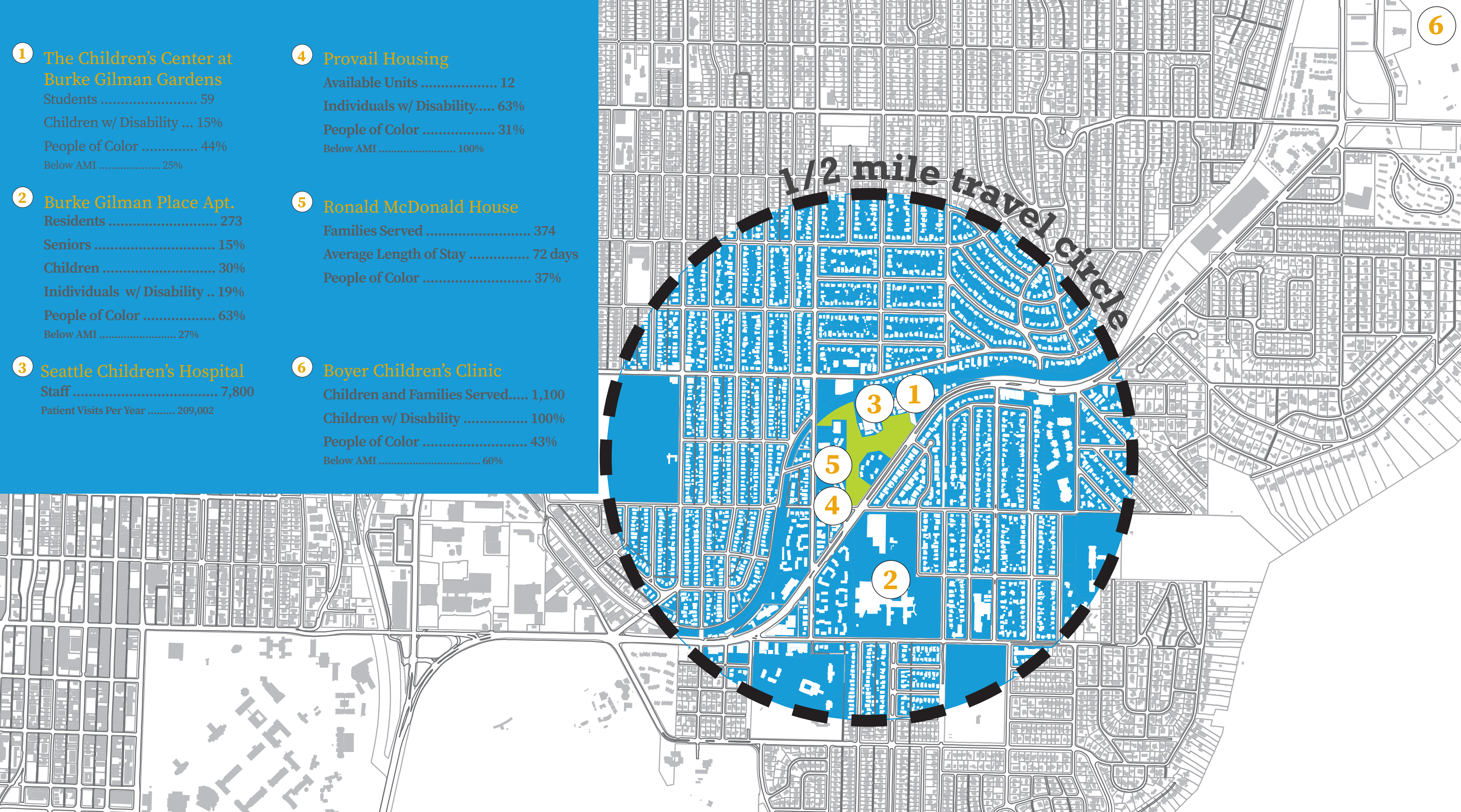




Pathways Park

A welcoming space for everyone,
fostering inclusion and valuing
each person as they are.



Context

Located in NE Seattle's wealthy Laurelhurst neighborhood, Pathways Park is situated within a microhood very different than the census data would suggest. Adjacent to several special needs facilities and low income housing, vulnerable populations report feeling isolated.

PARALLEL PATHWAYS

- 1 GROVE
- 2 GRATITUDE GROVE
- 3 SENSORY GARDEN
- 4 NEST
- 5 SAND & WATER
- 6 COUNCIL RING
- 7 SWINGS PLAY POCKET
- 8 NEIGHBOR ACCESS
- 9 HILLSIDE PLAY POCKET
- 10 SPINNING & CLIMBING PLAY POCKET
- 11 TURF
- 12 PICNIC MEADOW
- 13 BIO-RETENTION/SNAG MARSH
- 14 ROLLY POLLY PATHWAY
- 15 GATEWAY
- 16 RAVINE OVERLOOK
- 17 TEXTURAL PATHWAY
- 18 RESTROOM IMPROVEMENTS
- 19 INCREASED ADA PARKING
- 20 COVERED PICNIC & BBQ
- 21 GRASS MOUND



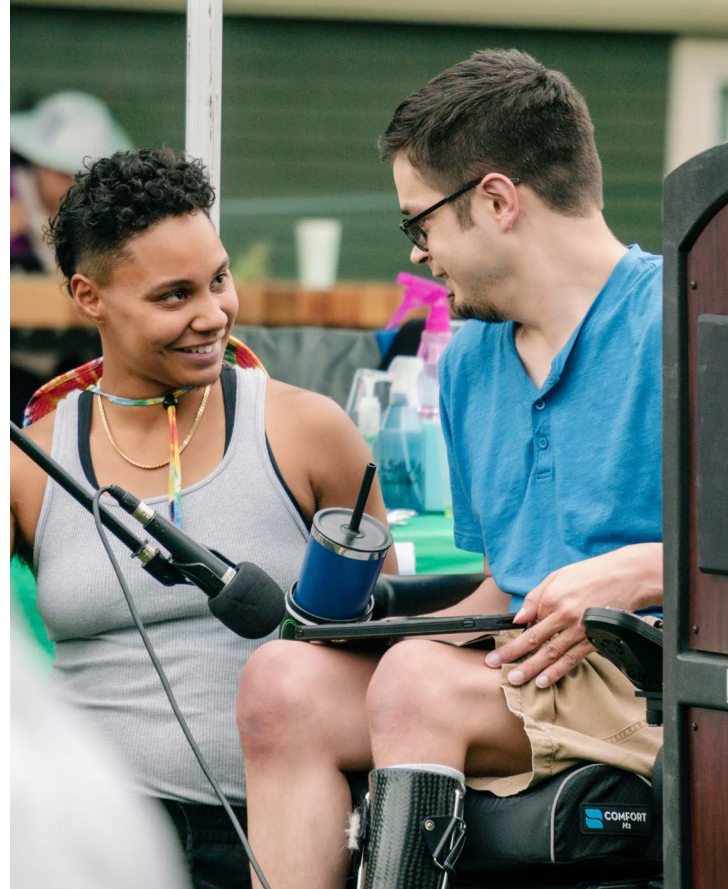
Site Plan

Two paths encircle the park: one smooth and accessible for those who need it, the other meanders to offer a variety of experiences for those seeking challenge. Both offer unique experiences, ensuring everyone can explore differently yet together.



Room to Breathe

Labeled as “Seattle’s most inclusive park,” Pathways is able to provide for hundreds of people’s interests and needs and still feel comfortable, safe and welcoming no matter where you are.



Pictured far left

"In my 32 years as a project manager at the Department of Neighborhoods, I have never witnessed anything like the community engagement process for the Eli's Park Project. The number and diversity of people who turn out for events is staggering, and they are diverse in every way; race, class, age, gender, and ability. People truly engaged with one another. The best thing of all is that the young people are **leading**, and bringing the adults along. This is exactly what a community led effort should look like. Well done!"



We acknowledge that
this park is on the unceded territory
of the
Duwamish Peoples
who continue to live and love
on this land.

Ḳususuxʷtubuḷəd čət
Ḳusulaḫtubuḷəd čət
Ḳusušəqədtubuḷəd čət

We recognize you
We remember you
We honor you

Inclusive Design

Pathways Park used an inclusive design process both for inspiration and for feedback, and also more importantly as a community building practice. Rather than stop at three meetings, we sought the missing voices and built amazing relationships.



Training Grounds

The “Rolly-Polly,” while not explicitly “accessible” is imagined as an opportunity for those on wheels to challenge themselves. Working closely with occupational therapists the design team included many features geared for growth.



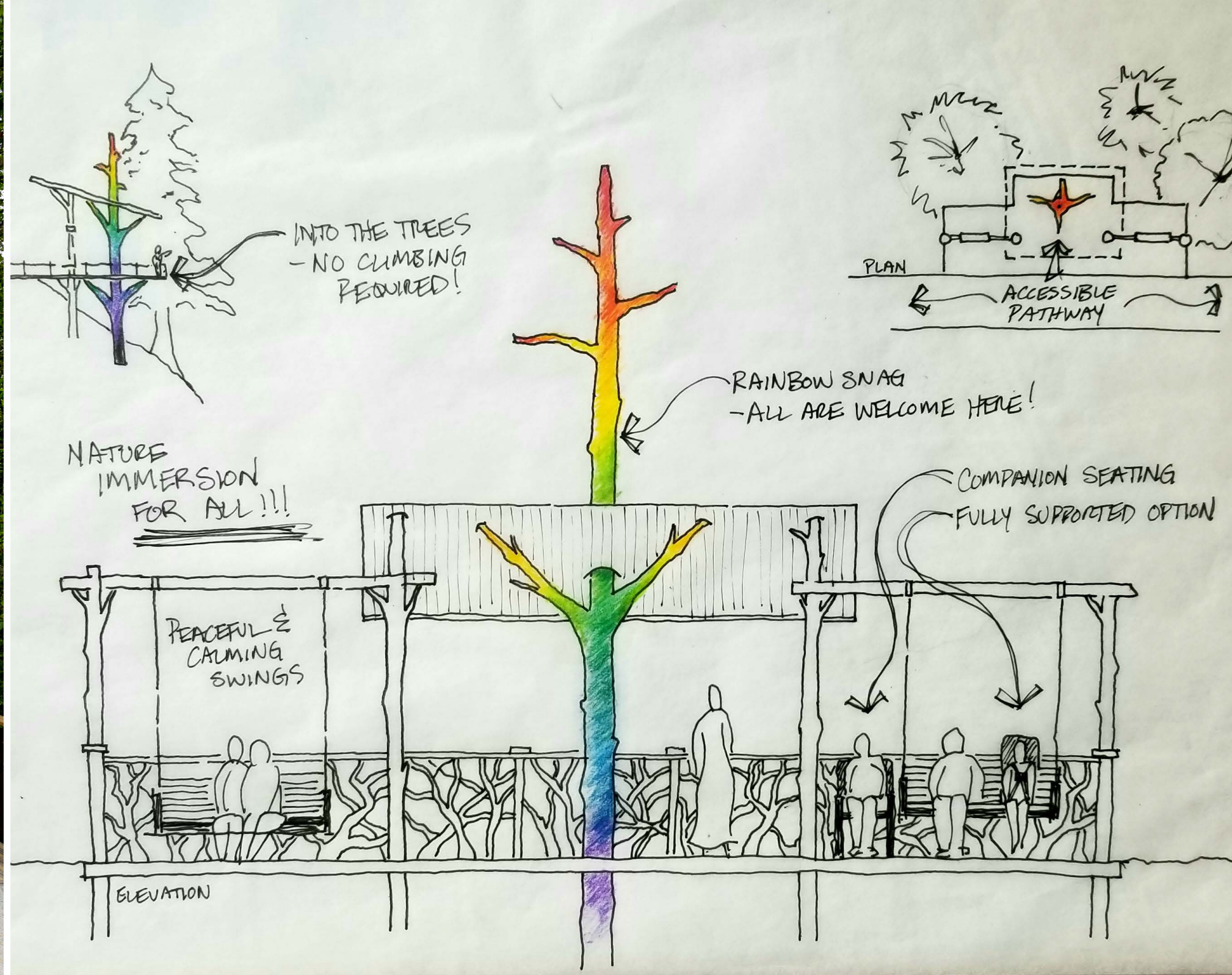
Social Spaces

Driven by desire to foster positive interactions, all features are intended to be shared. Group seating arranged in circles, multi-person swings, a super-wide slide all create opportunity for interacting with others who may be different than you.



Symbols of Belonging

Many marginalized people experience a “belonging gap” where they feel unwelcomed in public spaces. To build a bridge, the design team created a series of symbols like these Rainbow Snags to reinforce a sense of inclusion.



Treehouse

Building on the project's "nature" objective, many students suggested an "inclusive treehouse." Rather than build hundreds of feet of ramp, Pathway's Park includes a cantilevered deck and porch swings overlooking the ravine, accessible from the main path.



In the leaf littered forest
young cedars find their place
in the many shades of green
tall trees hold up the sky
sunlight streaming through branches
drops of rain shining
making us smile
calm
joyful
filling me up with fresh breeze.

- Pathways Park Community 2023

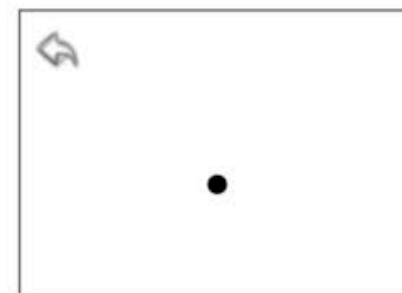
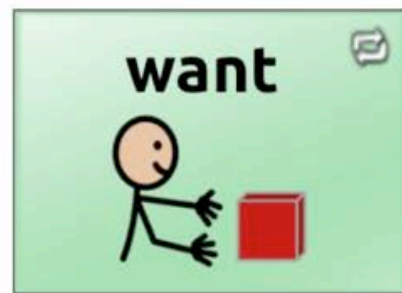
Braille Rail

Originally imagined by a student, the design team translated community authored poetry into braille and placed it on the treehouse railing. The poem describes the ravine beyond.





Love



Eli's first sentence inspired his mom to collect heart rocks. As the opening party closed, a beam of sunlight shone through the roof and lit up the special rock, highlighting the love embedded throughout the park. In awe.



Thoughtful Equipment

Manufactured equipment plays a small but vital role in the play environment. Multi-person swings, spinners, and a custom slide focus on social, dynamic motion, inviting interaction and shared experiences while thrilling adventure seekers.



Prospect & Refuge

The Nest responds to the teenage desire to hang-out and be alternately hidden and also seen. Located just off the main path, the social structure is animated by (5) small sculptures which resemble alien creature nests.



Nature! Art!

Integrating nature and symbols of belonging, site-specific artworks are woven throughout the park, creating special places and hidden discoveries. Guided by the design team artist, artful thinking shaped placemaking and messaging, fostering a welcoming atmosphere.



Playful Recognition

Roots of Recognition is a playful, abacus-like art piece recognizing more than 1,000 contributors to the project. Each person, organization or donor is recognized equally whether they sat in one meeting or donated \$1 million.